FOREST FIRE! *

CLOAD and RUN the cassette version of FOREST FIRE or RUN"D:FIRE" from the diskette. Use of a joystick is optional. If used, make sure that it is plugged into slot position 1. If you are not using the joystick, move the target marker with the arrow keys. Use the space bar in place of the red button mentioned below. If you desire to play as a team, one person can use the joystick while the other uses the keyboard.

You are the new fire coordinator assigned to protect prime forest land in southern California. Any fires that occur are usually started by lightening because the area is sparsely populated. Usually, more severe thunderstorms do produce larger fires.

The fire tower that you will be occupying is totally isolated so your only contact with the outside world will be from your communications equipment. Fortunately, this tower is outfitted with the latest in fire surveilence equipment. Recently, a fire scanner was installed and is designed to automatically signal the start of any fires in your district. The device also tracks the fire's progress and detects changing conditions that may affect its intensity and spread. A special communications satellite feeds various information to the scanner on an hourly basis and enables a computer enhanced view of the terrain. From this, you will be able to identify important structures that should be protected and to verify any orders sent out to dispatch men and equipment to the scene.

The area assigned to you is devided into sectors (one square mile) by the scanner. The scanner output identifies the location of woods, dry brush, lakes, your tower, a tank farm and the Governor's estate. If a fire does develop, try to keep it away from the dry brush area because a fire will spread 15% faster there. As you may have noticed, the Governor's estate happens to be located in your district. This little "retreat" of his is worth over $20,000,000, so by all means, do not let it burn down, it may cost you your job. Another important area to protect is the $10,000,000 gasoline tank farm. It has many large tanks of gasoline holding millions of gallons. There is enough fuel there to destroy everything within a radius of one sector.

Of course, you must take whatever action is necessary to protect the fire tower that you are in. The lakes will act as natural barriers to fire unless they are filled with burning gasoline from explosions at the tank farm. The wooded sectors are valued at $1,000,000 each and the real estate in the entire district is worth $190,000,000.

The scanner will visually display the fire at three levels of intensity. A new fire, raging fire and one burned down to embers will be shown. A sector will burn for eight hours if it is not affected by chemicals or by rain. Fire can spread to any adjacent sector as long as there is something there to burn. There is a 60% chance of spread from a new or raging fire and only a 30% chance from one that is just embers.